
Frederick County Sustainability Commission

“Meet the Members”

Mark Lancaster, Chairman



Mark Lancaster is the owner of Lancaster Craftsmen Builders, Inc., a residential custom home building company based in Middletown, MD. Mark has been a homebuilder for 30 years and has extensive experience in renovating historic properties and residential remodeling. Twice recognized as the Frederick County Builder of the Year, Mark is a talented designer and incorporates green building techniques on all his jobs, having earned the Certified Green Professional designation from the National Association of Home Builders.

In addition to serving on the Sustainability Commission, Mark serves on the Green Building Council of the Frederick County Builders Association. Mark was the founder of the Frederick County Housing Trust, an organization that, through donations of labor and materials from the local building industry, built a new home for a deserving family in a single weekend each year. Mark has presented several seminars on energy efficient design and construction methods and is a strong advocate of the financial benefits of green construction. Mark has a degree in business management from Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg.

Don Briggs



Donald N. Briggs is a real estate appraiser and consultant specializing in conservation, historical preservation and urban infill properties. To support this body of work, he holds MAI and SRA designations from the Appraisal Institute and is LEED AP designated by the US Green Building Council. In an appraisal career that extends back to 1972, Don has appraised property in 22 states and the District of Columbia. Currently he is licensed in MD and PA as a broker and MD as a Certified General appraiser.

Don is very active in sustainability education as a National Association of Realtors (NAR) Green designation instructor and the author/ instructor of the Maryland Association of Appraisers' Green Residential Valuation course. Don was the first NAR Green designee in the state of MD and is also an Ecosociate with EcoBroker International. He has spoken at the National Press Club, Washington D.C. on behalf of *The Journey Through Hallowed Grounds* and recently at the National Association of Home Builders *Green Building* Conference in Dallas, TX in May, 2009.

Currently Don serves as a member of the Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission, the Emmitsburg Streets Committee and the Hagerstown Community College Green Advisory Council. He also serves on the boards of the Catoctin Land Trust - a founding director; the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET); the NETC Emmitsburg Alliance; and, the National Firefighters Heritage Center. Don holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business from the University of Kentucky, a MA from Mount

St. Mary's University, and a MALA from St. John's College, Annapolis-Santa Fe. He resides in Emmitsburg.

Annmarie Creamer



Annmarie Creamer currently serves as the Recycling Outreach Program Coordinator for the Department of Solid Waste Management. It is her job to communicate the principles of wise resource management—using less, reusing more and recycling everything that can be. Her goal is to increase the County's recycling rate while also decreasing the amount of waste created in the first place. Annmarie's past work in education and outreach was focused on the field of horticulture; she has worked for two of the finest public gardens in America, Longwood Gardens and The Dawes Arboretum. Her work in both fields, waste management and gardening, has helped people to gain knowledge about, appreciation of and connection to their surrounding environment.

As a native of Frederick County, Annmarie grew up exploring the woodlands of the Catoctin Mountain range and still enjoys hiking, canoeing, camping and spending time outside. She is a Maryland Master Gardener and lives on a Frederick County farm, both factors that inspire her to continually work towards crafting a more sustainable lifestyle. Annmarie graduated from Naropa University, in Boulder, CO, with a degree in environmental studies. She is currently completing work towards her master's degree in the field of education; her specialization is in experiential education and adult learning programs.

Lisa M. Gaver



Lisa M. Gaver with husband Michael own and operate a diversified family farming operation, Gaver Family Farms in New Market, MD. They operated a dairy herd up until March, 2007 and continue to raise dairy replacement heifers and raise a small Angus beef herd. They raise just over 1,000 acres of crops, consisting of corn, soybeans, wheat and various hays. In addition, they operate Gaver Tree Farm & Pumpkin Patch, LLC, which includes 60 acres of cut your own Christmas Trees and an ag-tourism Fall-Fun-Festival with pick-your-own pumpkins and numerous fun and educational activities for families.

Lisa is active in the community serving as Vice President of the Maryland Christmas Tree Assoc, puts on an annual (15th year) Farm Safety for Kids Camp, has been active with 4-H, church and school activities. They have two children, Laura, 22 and Gregory, 19 who are involved in all aspects of the farming operation. The Gaver family was Frederick County's Farm Family of the Year for 2005 and was presented the Take Pride in America award for 2008 for outstanding conservation and stewardship practices.

Margie Lance (Vice-Chair)



Margie Lance is a housing coordinator for the Frederick County Department of Housing and Community Development. Margie is committed to affordable housing, green building, and environmental stewardship. She brings to the Sustainability Commission a holistic viewpoint that how we live and everything we buy and consume affects this sacred planet earth.

Margie has had LEED training through a course at Montgomery College and as a member of the Maryland Green Building Network, which she has been involved in since its inception. She has installed solar water heating at her home, composts, is an avid organic gardener, bikes to work and owns a fuel efficient vehicle. Margie is President of the Board of Directors of The Common Market Cooperative and was previously on the County appointed Affordable Housing Council. She holds advanced degrees in Social Work and Education and lives in the City of Frederick.

Richard Maranto



Richard Maranto lives in a passive solar home that he built in 1979. His two children were born and raised in the home, which is located west of Middletown. Mr. Maranto graduated from St. Mary's College of MD with a B.A. in English, and from Syracuse University with a M.S. in TV/Radio Communications. Along the way he took several computer programming courses at Frederick Community College.

Before starting his company (RAM Digital Inc.) in 1999, Mr. Maranto was in senior management with a large multimedia company that produced interactive training. He has worked with government agencies, utilities and industrial facilities throughout the United States. Mr. Maranto currently serves as President of Citizens for the Preservation of Middletown Valley. He is on the board of Friends of Frederick County, and a volunteer with "Our Commonwealth" (a lecture series on building sustainable communities). In January 2009, Mr. Maranto became the Western Maryland Coordinator for SolarTour.org. Mr. Maranto is a member of the American Solar Energy Society, the MD-DC-VA Solar Energy Industries Association, and the U.S. Green Building Council, Western Maryland. In March of 2009, Mr. Maranto launched the Internet blog site Maryland Goes Green to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in Maryland.

Winifred Palmer, PhD



Winnie Palmer is a toxicologist involved in the health effects associated with industrial and environmental chemicals and with exposure to metal fumes. She has experience developing water and air quality exposure standards and was involved with development of acute and chronic exposure limits for smokes and obscurants, nerve agents, and industrial chemicals as an employee/consultant to the U.S. Army. She has also been involved in cancer research at the Frederick Cancer Research Facility and in animal carcinogenicity tests of environmental and industrial chemicals under contract to the National Cancer Institute and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Winnie has served on the Frederick County Sludge Task Force and as scientific liaison to a Delegate of the Maryland General Assembly when he served on the Environmental Matters Committee. She has been a Frederick County resident since 1972 and maintaining the quality of life of the county is a high priority for her.

Fred Ugast



Fred Ugast is founder and president of U.S. Photovoltaics, Inc., a Frederick-based firm focused on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies by homeowners and businesses in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic. USPV helps homeowners and businesses "go solar" through the creation, sale and trading of Solar Renewable Energy Credits which represent the clean value of electricity derived from solar energy.

Prior to founding USPV, Ugast served as Chief Operating Officer of HomeTech Information Systems, Inc., a nationally-recognized publisher of construction cost estimating databases, software and internet applications. Fred, Linda and their three children have been residents of Urbana since 2001.

Janice Wiles



Janice Wiles is the Executive Director and founder of Friends of Frederick County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to promote environmental conservation, fair and open government, and active civic engagement in the process of determining the future of the county. Janice is trained in environmental science, biology, watershed protection and community development and has over 25 years of experience working on sustainability, resource conservation and socioeconomic issues in Brazil and the United States.

She has served as a Senior Program Officer for the World Wildlife Fund and a liaison to the Brazilian Ministry for Science and Technology for NASA. Janice has a desire to work on sustainable commerce issues and is particularly interested in agriculture. She is a resident of the City of Frederick.